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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted]

ITEMS MARKED & HAVE BEEN COORDINATED [redacted]

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1. CHILE: THE PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE IN CHILE'S AIR FORCE COURT-MARTIAL OF 64 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THE ALLENDE REGIME ENDED ON JUNE 11 AFTER NEARLY TWO MONTHS OF TESTIMONY. VERDICTS AND SENTENCES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HANDED DOWN WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

THE RECENT COMMUTATIONS OF DEATH SENTENCES IMPOSED BY PROVINCIAL MILITARY TRIBUNALS STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT NO EXECUTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE, EVEN IF SOME OF THE DEFENDENTS ARE SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE AIR FORCE JUDGES.

GOVERNMENT PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR THE TRIALS OF OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT AND OF POPULAR UNITY PARTY LEADERS FORMERLY IMPRISONED ON DAWSON ISLAND AND NOW INCARCERATED IN AND AROUND SANTIAGO. THESE TRIALS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE HELD FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SAFE CONDUCT HAS BEEN ASSURED FOR ALL THOSE WHO SOUGHT ASYLUM IN LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSIES.

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THERE ARE 32 OTHERS WHO HAVE SOUGHT ASYLUM IN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES, AND SAFE-CONDUCT FOR ALL BUT EIGHT IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY PROBABLY WILL BE GRANTED THIS WEEK. THE GOVERNMENT BLAMES THE DELAY ON ITALY'S FAILURE TO ACCREDIT A DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IN SANTIAGO.

SAFE-CONDUCT FOR MORE THAN 8,000 HAS BEEN GRANTED SINCE THE MILITARY TOOK POWER LAST SEPTEMBER. ELIMINATION OF THIS PROBLEM WITH THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM WILL HELP CHILE REGAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL NATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE STRONG REACTION TO THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE CONTINUES TO HURT CHILE'S STANDING IN MANY COUNTRIES.

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